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Reply to the Office Action dated December 12, 2003

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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please REPLACE the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13 of the Specification with the following amended paragraph:

In general, the frequency of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus ranges from 50 kHz to 100 kHz. When the apparatus is driven at 50 kHz, 600,000 cycles at the maximum vibration velocity of about 1.2 m/s, this requires about 12 seconds, and 10,000 cycles at the maximum vibration velocity of about 1.8 m/s requires about 0.2 second. When the transformer apparatus is driven at 100 kHz, 600,000 cycles at the maximum vibration velocity of about 1.2 m/s, this requires about 0.2 second, and 10,000 cycles at the maximum vibration velocity of about 1.8 m/s requires about 0.1 second. When the screening method is applied to manufacturing processes, the time difference between driving at 10,000 ~~cycles~~ cycles and the maximum velocity of about 1.2 m/s and driving at 10,000 cycles and the maximum velocity of about 1.8 m/s is substantially great. Taking into consideration the effects of heat generated by the piezoelectric transformer apparatus, which is described hereinafter, there is a difference of at least ten times the time required for the different screening methods described above. Therefore, it is preferable that the maximum vibration velocity is 1.8 m/s or greater in order that the screening process is completed within a screening time of a few seconds. The upper limit of the maximum vibration velocity is about 3.8 m/s, as described above. In view of the cost of the stress signal oscillator and the heat generated by the piezoelectric transformer apparatus, the maximum vibration velocity is selected so that there is enough time left for the manufacturing steps which are performed ~~and~~ after the screening process (i.e., completing the manufacturing of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus).